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Mr. Smith, in conclusion, drew the attention of the Academy to the circumstance that those and many other venerable and most interesting remains of remote antiquity, which are but rarely, and at distant intervals of time, discovered in Great Britain, and on the Continent, literally abound in Ireland; and hence inferred, the incalculable advantage which will be attained, in the study of the ancient history not only of this country but of the world, by the formation of a great National Museum of Irish Antiquities, such as is at present projected to be formed under the auspices of the Academy.

“Without claiming any undue importance for the pursuit of antiquarian research, it nevertheless has its office, and that by no means an ignoble one, as the handmaid of history—‘*Principatum non habet; ancillari debet.*’ It furnishes the critical student not only with curious information and the most valuable commentary on minute points, but summons up for him a host of most important witnesses, whom, though silent, he can subject to the most scrutinizing examination again and again; on whose testimony, carefully weighed as to its true value, history ever rests as on its securest basis.”

The reading of a paper by the Rev. T. R. Robinson, D. D., “On the Constant of Refraction, determined by Observations with the Mural Circle of the Armagh Observatory,” was commenced.

A paper by Dr. Andrews of Belfast, “on the Heat developed during the Combination of Acids and Bases,” was read.

The general conclusions at which the author arrives are contained in the two following Laws.

Law 1. “The heat developed during the union of acids and bases is determined by the base, and not by the acid; the same base producing, when combined with an equivalent of different acids, nearly the same quantity of heat, but different bases a different quantity.”